

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, January 14, 2014  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Gary Charbonneau, Maggie Sullivan , Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Claire Cumberland, Andrea Jobe, Bill Brown, Randy Cassady, David Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Cranor

Regrets: Rita Drescher, David Parkhurst, George Huntington

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Darrell and Kathleen Boggess, Amanda Figolah

Co-Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:04 pm**.

**Public Comment**

Darrell Boggess noted that the Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network (SIREN) has been successful in encouraging a number of solar installations. Now there are 500 solar installations in the whole state of Indiana, and 20% of those are in Monroe County. The next public presentation on going solar will be in February – details are on the SIREN website.

**Announcements:**

- Molly
  - February 9, 2-5pm there will be a “Using Energy Prudently” workshop
- Jeff – Bloomingfoods will host the “Up and Coming, Up and Running” conference again this year. Feb 27 – March 1; the event will attract participants from all over the country
- Dave Rollo – has been doing research on the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan, and found a lot of misinformation about the incident and the subsequent contamination and safety issues. The Japanese government/Japanese industry has tried to suppress information about the incident. A number of cities on the US west coast are appealing for an objective review of the threats they are facing. Is the commission interested in supporting a resolution related to this issue? Please contact Dave R. at [rollod@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:rollod@bloomington.in.gov).

**Approval of Minutes:**

The December 2013 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Presentation on behavior change for energy and water conservation: Prof. Shahzeen Attari**

Prof. Attari's training is as a physicist and engineer, but her recent work has focused on psychology.

Efficiency and conservation have been identified as having great potential to reduce carbon emissions. Household energy use makes up 38% of CO2 emissions in the US (2005 data).

People don't make necessary changes because of information deficit and motivation deficit. Prof. Attari has tried to evaluate this in greater detail. Asked "What is the most effective behavior for reducing energy use?" She found that most people don't really know. Focused on curtailment rather than efficiency. A greater efficiency focus is needed.

People have generally accurate idea of what types of equipment use more energy, but don't have a sense of how much more (for example, the energy use of dishwasher is underestimated by a factor of 800).

More information likely better, but can overshoot people's ability to synthesize this info and make it useful. So how can we improve adoption of positive behaviors?

Recent work on perceptions of water use – best nationwide data is 15 years old! Little connection between activities that use the most water and the activities we think use the most water (e.g. toilets account for most use, but don't register on list of what people think would save most water). However, there is less of a discrepancy than in the case of electricity.

- likely because people understand "gallons" better than "kwh", and because water is more tangible and less changeable than electricity.

What can we do in Bloomington?

- improve perceptions by changing our utility bills
  - units are unclear, marginal cost of water is not discernable, need to be able to compare to the previous month, how one's use compares to that of one's neighbors
  - could run a controlled study of redesigning the utility bill? Confer with Nolan Hendon

Comments and questions:

- Amanda – her students have been very motivated by human rights issues related to fossil fuel and water use
- Ashley – usage went down in county, but rates went up so overall expenditures went up, so has been hard to get buy-in for efficiency improvements.

### **Discussion of STAR Communities rating system**

Jacqui reviewed the topic areas in the STAR Communities, and gave an overview of her specific subtopic of Transportation. She asked people to review their topics and start filling out their sections.

### **Report from the Co-Chair:**

Focus areas for 2014: focus efforts on the STAR Communities system, use that to develop additional initiatives.

Future speakers:

- Someone who is an expert on district energy/distributed energy (possibly IU)

- Community Orchard – have a speaker in the spring
- Bloomingfoods – to give an update on the operations of the Elm Heights store
- Deb Trocha – speak on cooperative business model

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

The Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Bike Ride will take place at 10am on January 25. Volunteer ride guides are needed.

Jacqui also reported on a discussion about a Meatless Mondays initiative. Someone will come to present on the topic at the next BCOS meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

- ECPC – Dave Rollo
  - Pavilion Properties has new proposal on Kirkwood and Grant; will be commercial and residential mix
    - Planning Dept has been emphasizing need for owner-occupied units downtown
    - Another possible concern is its large footprint – important that they use green building practices
  - Corner of College and 17<sup>th</sup> – also apartments with 1<sup>st</sup> floor large restaurant
  - Habitat for Humanity proposal along the B-Line trail and Butler Park; currently greenspace but heavily impacted by invasives; will be using many green features and practices
  - Co-housing project, presented at recent BCOS meeting – in limbo right now because Planning wants to extend Short Street as a condition of approval, but petitioner doesn't have funding to pay for it. Many benefits from a sustainability perspective, and Dave R. will meet with Tom Micuda from Planning tomorrow.
- Imagine Bloomington update:
  - Working internally on report format, also finalizing goals that should be made public for review sometime soon.
  - Dave R., Claire, Dave P. and Gary will also be meeting to talk about incorporating a “limit to growth” perspective in the plan.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned 7:25pm.